

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representative
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson:

As you work to prioritize funding for the Fiscal Year 2022 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we write to request robust funding for programs related to the deployment of battery-powered and zero-emissions locomotives within the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), Vehicle Technology Office. Specifically, we would respectfully request that not less than \$30 million be provided for the development and deployment of zero-emission commuter locomotives for publicly-owned commuter railroads as part of the DOE's Vehicle Technologies program with a focus on metropolitan regions with poor air quality.

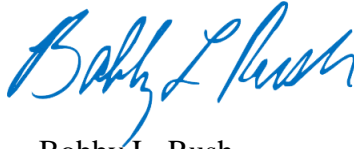
Throughout the years, our nation's railroads have served as a crucial national economic resource that has delivered consumers cost savings all while lowering highway gridlock and construction. However, this essential source of transportation often contributed to the release of fine particles that cause asthma as well as nitrogen dioxide and greenhouse gases that contribute to acid rain, smog, and other environmental and health hazards. The development and deployment of emission reduction technologies for locomotives would enhance our nation's ability to move greater quantities of goods and people in accordance with our climate goals.

According to the EPA, the transportation sector accounts for approximately one-third of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions —making it one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. Further, the U.S. transportation sector relies heavily on petroleum as a source of energy. In 2019 alone, the U.S. Energy Information Administration estimated that petroleum products accounted for 91 percent of the total energy used within the U.S. transportation sector. This is all the more concerning as low-income individuals are disproportionately impacted by the sector, including those within Chicago who are exposed to one-fourth of all U.S. freight emissions

Considering these factors and our economies continued reliance on trains, and other vehicles for public and commercial transport, it is essential that we invest in a cleaner future for a variety of transport modes. Historically, DOE's EERE Vehicle Technology Office have supported projects that provide broad health and environmental benefits by developing solutions to reduce pollution emitted from diesel engines. Therefore, further investment in this program will support local and national efforts to reduce environmental and health hazards across the country.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter to allocate at least \$30 million in DOE's Vehicle Technologies program for the development and deployment of battery-powered and zero-emission locomotives for publicly-owned commuter railroads. We appreciate your support of this vital program as well as your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bobby L. Rush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bobby" being more prominent.

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

/s/
Marie Newman
Member of Congress

/s/
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

/s/
Sean Casten
Member of Congress

/s/
Jesús G. “Chuy” García
Member of Congress

/s/
Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress